

"Still  
The Second  
Best Thing  
About Payday"

# The NIH Record

## Nobelist Is Clinton's Choice

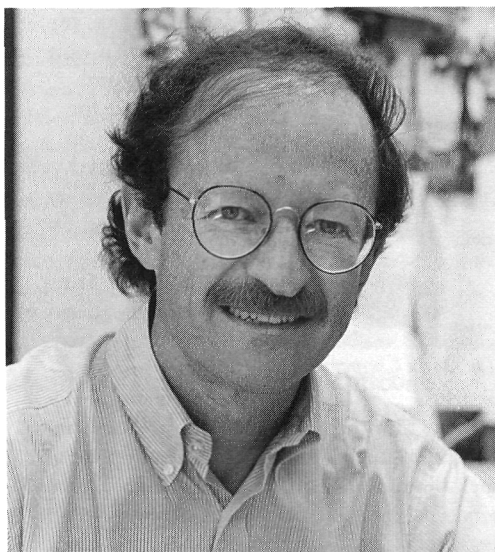
### **Harold Varmus Nominated as 14th NIH Director**

President Clinton on Aug. 3 announced his intention to nominate Dr. Harold Eliot Varmus as the 14th director of the National Institutes of Health. A Senate confirmation process must precede Varmus' taking over leadership of the institutes.

Winner of the Nobel Prize in 1989 for his work in cancer research, Varmus, 53, is a professor of microbiology, biochemistry, and biophysics, and the American Cancer Society professor of molecular virology at the University of California, San Francisco. He is a leader in the study of cancer-causing genes called "oncogenes," and an internationally recognized authority on retroviruses, the viruses that cause AIDS and many cancers in animals.

Varmus would be the first NIH director to have won a Nobel Prize, and is one of the world's most eminent and most honored biomedical scientists. He has been working at the cutting edge of modern cell and molecular biology, and has had an active relationship with NIH for about 30 years as an intramural scientist, grantee, and public advisor.

Varmus and his UCSF colleague Dr. J. Michael Bishop shared a Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine in 1989 for demonstrating that cancer genes (oncogenes) can arise from normal cellular genes, called proto-oncogenes. While investigating a retroviral



*Dr. Harold E. Varmus*

gene, v-src, responsible for causing tumors in chickens, they discovered a nonviral src gene, very similar to v-src, present in the normal cells of birds and mammals.

In recent years, his work has assumed special relevance to AIDS, through a focus on biochemical properties of HIV, and to breast cancer, through investigation of mammary

(See **VARMUS**, Page 6)

### **NHLBI Opens Bone Marrow Transplantation Unit in CC**

By Ellen Sommer

With the recent opening of NHLBI's state-of-the-art bone marrow transplantation unit in 2 West of the Clinical Center, NIH now has a special capability to conduct research to improve the safety and effectiveness of this treatment.

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony held to celebrate the opening of the new facility, NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant noted, "This new unit will result in a concerted, multidisciplinary effort that will involve investigators from other NIH components. It will enable our scientists to convert laboratory discoveries into effective treatments for a variety of life-threatening diseases."

Clinical bone marrow transplantation was first done in this country in the late 1960's for immune deficiency disorders. Today, more than 15,000 bone marrow transplants are carried out worldwide every year for a growing number of diseases. The National Marrow Donor Program in this country, which is managed by NHLBI, currently facilitates about 60 transplants a month, and has more than 900,000 donors on its registry.

(See **MARROW UNIT**, Page 4)



*Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-Neb.) meets with NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein during a visit to NIH on Aug. 2. Kerrey toured the Clinical Center (the stop above was in the clinical pathology department), meeting scientists and patients. He received briefings on cancer research from Dr. Steven Rosenberg, chief of NCI's Surgery Branch, as well as NCI director Dr. Samuel Broder. He also inspected NHLBI's new bone marrow transplantation unit, quizzing unit head Dr. John Bennett on uses for the therapy. Before leaving, Kerrey assured his NIH hosts that this was just an introduction to a continuing relationship.*

### **Max Cooper To Deliver NIAID's Kinyoun Lecture**

Internationally recognized for his pioneering work in developmental immunobiology, Dr. Max D. Cooper will deliver the Kinyoun Lecture on Sept. 1 at 4 p.m. in Bldg. 10's Lipsett Amphitheater. He has titled the talk "Lymphocyte Differentiation Pathways: Changing Paradigms."

The topic derives from research in which he showed that the human immune system can be divided developmentally and functionally into B cell and T cell populations. This work was the major breakthrough in our understanding of the mechanisms of immunodeficiencies and has since led to a classification system and treatment advances for these illnesses. Cooper was also responsible for pivotal insights into the process regulating the formation of lymphoid neoplasia.

Currently, as the Howard Hughes investigator at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Cooper directs an international team of researchers in studies of cancer, leukemia, and the immunology of AIDS. The university is one of only 26 having a Howard Hughes researcher on staff. Since 1967, Cooper has held the position of professor of medicine, pediatrics, and microbiology at the university, where he also serves as director of the division of developmental and clinical immunology, director of the cellular immunobiology unit of

(See **KINYOUN LECTURE**, Page 2)

### **New Effort Targets Skin Disease Epidemiology**

At a time when the health care dollar is being squeezed, there is a great need to develop means of measuring and documenting the suffering caused by skin diseases," said Dr. John Koo of the University of California, San Francisco, at the first national workshop on the epidemiology of skin diseases, held earlier this year at NIH.

The workshop, sponsored and organized by NIAMS, convened a group of national and international experts in dermatology and epidemiology to review the current status of epidemiologic research on diverse skin diseases. The diseases included nonmelanoma skin cancer, psoriasis, toxic epidermal necrolysis, dermatologic aspects of HIV infection, and chronic cutaneous ulcers. The workshop also identified areas in which epidemiologic studies would advance understanding, management, and prevention of skin diseases in order to encourage more research into these areas. According to the American Skin Association, there may be as many as 2,000 skin diseases; some 75 of these are the most common.

"Previous surveys have indicated that each year, one in three Americans has a skin condition serious enough to be seen by a physician,"

(See **SKIN DISEASES**, Page 5)

## KINYOUN LECTURE (Continued from Page 1)

the tumor institute, and senior scientist of their comprehensive cancer center.

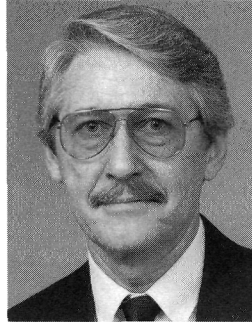
Cooper specialized in pediatrics in his studies at the University of Mississippi Medical School and at Tulane University Medical School. In his clinical work at the University of California's San Francisco Medical Center, where he began as a fellow in 1961, Cooper became absorbed with cases involving recurring infections in children who had been identified with immunologic deficits. His immunologic interests flourished in his subsequent work based on the chicken as the immune system model, enabling him to show the distinction between lymphocytes originating in the thymus gland (T cells) and those developing from the bursa (B cells). Virtually every aspect of our knowledge of the human immune system derives in large part from these seminal studies.

Stimulated by the pediatric studies he began in medical school, Cooper also went on to identify a new type of childhood lymphoblastic leukemia, known as pre-B cell leukemia. Not only did he discover pre-B cells, he demonstrated that B cell neoplasms originate in the bone marrow. This work proved to be the

foundation of current therapy for T and B cell-related malignancies.

The Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine conferred on Cooper one of its most prestigious awards for his B and T cell differentiation studies, for which he also won the 1990 inaugural Sandoz Prize for Immunology, an honor he shared with Dr. Jacques Miller of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne. The National Academy of Sciences inducted Cooper into its membership in 1988, making him the first researcher in Alabama to be so recognized, and in 1990, he became a member of the Institute of Medicine. He also serves on the editorial boards of several highly regarded scientific journals.

Cooper continues his longstanding relationship with the NIAID, both as a grantee and as a member of the institute's board of scientific counselors.—Karen Leighty □



Dr. Max Cooper

Cooper into its membership in 1988, making him the first researcher in Alabama to be so recognized, and in 1990, he became a member of the Institute of Medicine. He also serves on the editorial boards of several highly regarded scientific journals.

## Two NIH Fencers Excel

Two charter members of the NIH Fencers Club have just won top honors in open competition.

Dr. Peter Roller of NCI won the Capital Area Division Open Sabre Championship, after a fierce battle for first place with Dr. Novera "Herb" Spector of NINDS.

Spector defended his sabre championship in the senior category at the U.S. National Championships, just concluded in Ft. Myers, Fla., by winning all of his bouts in the above-55 divisions. Spector, 73, continues to break his own world records for qualification for the U.S. Open Championships (55 successive years) and for total gold medals in foil, epee, and sabre competitions in the senior (formerly senior olympic) categories.

In the super-senior sabre event composed of winners from all age groups, Spector again gave the only defeat (5-1) to last year's super-senior champion, an Alaskan from the 40-44 group, and barely missed a tie for first place in the supers, which he has won on two previous occasions.

For information on the NIH and other fencing clubs in the D.C. metropolitan area, call or write to Cleveland Cooper, Federal Bldg., Rm. 916, phone 65745, fax 21501. □

## NIDDK's Hoofnagle Receives Clinical Research Award

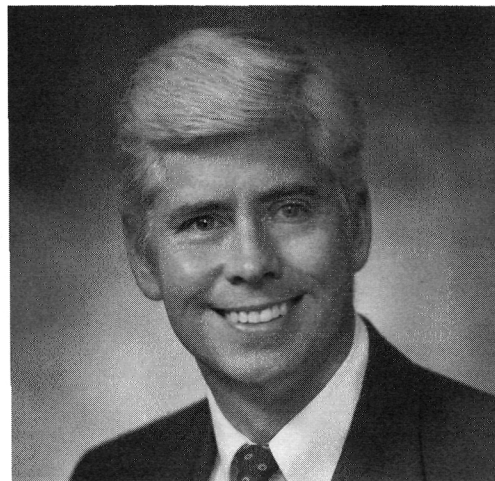
Dr. Jay Hoofnagle, director of the Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition and senior investigator in the liver disease section of NIDDK recently received the Miles Fiterman/Hugh R. Butt Award for Clinical Research in Hepatology/Nutrition from the American Gastroenterological Association Awards Foundation. He was presented the award at a ceremony during the annual Digestive Diseases Week in Boston. The award comes with a \$25,000 stipend to support the laboratory research of the honoree.

Established in 1991, the Miles Fiterman/Hugh R. Butt Award honors outstanding research in hepatology and nutrition. Hoofnagle was recognized for his work on chronic viral hepatitis.

"It's very gratifying to have your peers recognize your life's work," said Hoofnagle.

His early accomplishments include developing antibody tests for hepatitis B. Later, as senior investigator in the liver diseases section of NIDDK, he characterized the natural history and character of chronic hepatitis B and non-A, non-B hepatitis. He was the first to report the beneficial effects of alpha interferon in chronic non-A, non-B hepatitis. He further clarified the virologic and immunologic mechanisms of liver injury in hepatitis B and studied the role of this infection in the etiology of cancer. He identified the IgM core antibody and has done numerous studies on various serologic markers of hepatitis B and the molecular biology of hepatitis B.

Other studies led by Hoofnagle include



Dr. Jay Hoofnagle

research in immunologically mediated diseases such as primary biliary cirrhosis, sclerosing cholangitis, and autoimmune chronic active hepatitis. These investigations deal largely with the immune mechanisms and the alteration of immunologic features with immunodulatory therapies.

A graduate of Yale Medical School, Hoofnagle came to NIH after a year of residency in internal medicine at the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville. Later, he continued clinical training at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Washington, D.C. He returned to NIH in 1978.

Before accepting his current position, Hoofnagle served for 2 years as NIDDK clinical director. □

## The NIH Record

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**NIH Record Office**  
Bldg. 31, Room 2B-03  
Phone 62125  
Fax 21485

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## New Study Ties Behavioral Disorder to Genetic Defect

NIH scientists have now pinpointed a specific gene defect associated with a human behavioral disorder. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is strongly associated with a gene coding for a defective thyroid hormone receptor in a select group of patients, the investigators reported in a recent issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

They found a strong association between ADHD and generalized resistance to thyroid hormone, which previous studies have shown is firmly linked to mutations in a gene coding for the thyroid hormone receptor.

"Finding the genetic basis for ADHD in children with generalized resistance to thyroid hormone can eventually help us understand attention deficit," said lead investigator Dr. Peter Hauser, a guest researcher with NIDDK's Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology Branch. "Knowing what is genetically and biochemically wrong enables us to design better treatments."

***This study raises the possibility that genetic factors thought to underlie other behavioral disorders will eventually be found.***

"This study raises the possibility that genetic factors thought to underlie other behavioral disorders will eventually be found," added study coauthor Dr. Bruce Weintraub, branch chief.

Although it occurs in adults, ADHD is most commonly diagnosed in children, affecting about 4 percent of the school-age population. The disorder, which is characterized by impulsivity, restlessness, and distractibility, is believed to put children at increased risk for school and behavioral problems.

The genetic association was made when investigators compared 49 patients with generalized resistance to thyroid hormone and 55 relatives without the condition. Fifty-two were adults and 52 were children.

Seventy percent of the children and 50 percent of the adults with thyroid hormone resistance also had ADHD, as determined by structured psychiatric interviews. By contrast, 20 percent of the children and 7 percent of the adults without thyroid hormone resistance had ADHD.

The study should promote a wider understanding of attention deficit, according to study coauthor Dr. Alan J. Zametkin, senior staff psychiatrist with NIMH's section on clinical brain-imaging. "It's not bad parenting, overcrowded schools, or unmotivated kids. ADHD is a neuropsychiatric problem based on brain physiology," he said.

The investigators caution that the exact cause of ADHD remains unknown, but the disorder may result from a combination of factors. "Thyroid hormone is essential to normal brain development. There are several ways that faulty thyroid hormone receptors could affect that

development and result in behavioral abnormalities," said Weintraub.

Although investigators do not know how often thyroid abnormalities contribute to ADHD, they believe it is relatively uncommon. To determine the prevalence of thyroid hormone resistance in the general population, Hauser and Weintraub are currently collaborating with the newborn screening program of the Wadsworth Center for Laboratories and Research of the New York state department of health to identify infants with generalized resistance to thyroid hormone. Such screening would allow early, prompt intervention to prevent or reduce the severity of ADHD.—

Mark T. Sampson □

## Attention Commissioned Officers

As of the end of May, 338 officers had not yet submitted the Assignment Preference, Phone Listing and Experience System (APPLES) survey. This document was sent to all officers in December 1992, and should be completed and submitted to the Division of Commissioned Personnel as soon as possible. □

## NIH Blacks in Government Chapter Presents Five Awards

The NIH chapter of Blacks in Government recently presented awards to five outstanding individuals. Vincent A. Thomas, BIG president, presided over the ceremony and lauded the recipients.

The Outstanding Manager Award was presented to Dr. Ron G. King, senior staff fellow, NINDS. He was recognized "for outstanding service to science and the training of youth."

The NIH Career Milestone Recognition Award was presented to J. Harrison Ager, minority program manager, NIDDK, "for outstanding contributions to research and EEO initiatives."

Gladys Whitted, OD small and disadvantaged

## Women's Equality Day, Sept. 2

The advisory committee for women, through the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO), will sponsor an observance of Women's Equality Day on Thursday, Sept. 2, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Women's Equality Day is observed to mark the passage of the 19th amendment to the Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.

The program will feature a reading of the play *A Stampede of Zebras*, written by NIDDK senior staff scientist Dr. Robert G. Martin. The title comes from the medical saw, "If you hear the sound of hoofbeats, don't look for zebras." The play addresses issues of sexism, racism, and biomedical ethics, and provides an entertaining means of increasing sensitivity to these issues at NIH.

The play has been incorporated into the bioethics curricula of more than a dozen universities. It has also been presented in a number of cities in the United States as well as abroad.

Sign language interpretation will be provided. For more information and reasonable accommodation, contact the OEO, 66301. □

business utilization specialist, received an MLK Help Somebody Award "for outstanding service to fellow workers, and commitment to the principles of equality."

Receiving the same honor was Kimberly Hardy, secretary, MEDLARS management at NLM, "for unselfish giving of time and effort to benefit the less fortunate."

Shirl Brinson, OD purchase agent, was presented with the Chapter Involvement Award "for an outstanding record of service and commitment to BIG, NIH Chapter."

The awards ceremony featured Doris McMillon, veteran journalist and newscaster as moderator and award presenter. Earl Simmons of NLM entertained with vocal selections.



*Taking part in BIG's awards ceremony were (seated, from l) Doris McMillon, journalist and program speaker; Vincent Thomas, BIG president; (standing, from l) awardees Dr. Ron G. King, Kimberly Hardy, Jalil Mutakabbir (accepting for Gladys Whitted), Shirl Brinson, and J. Harrison Ager.*



## MARROW UNIT

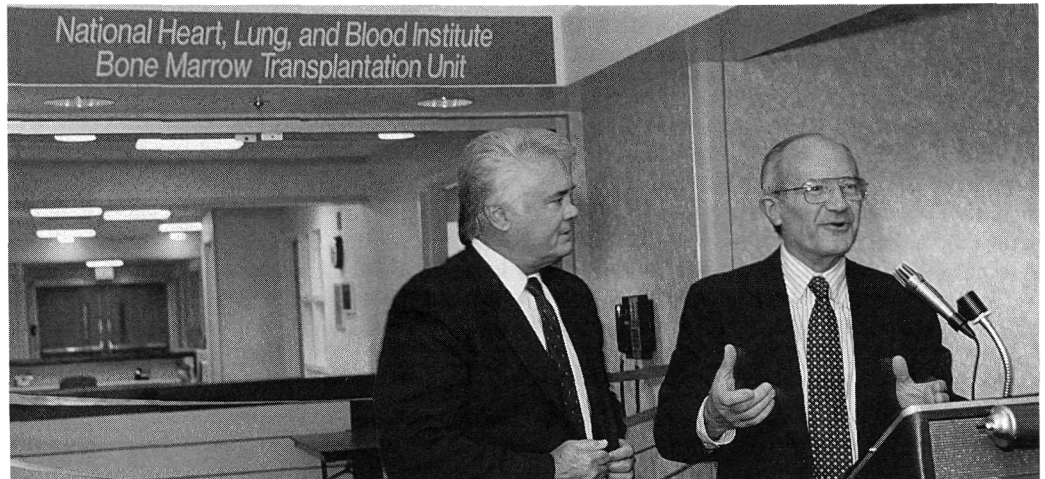
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In his remarks at the opening ceremony, Dr. John Barrett, chief of the Intramural Bone Marrow Transplantation Program, said, "Two important issues confront marrow transplantation today. First, the correction of certain inherited blood disorders, such as sickle cell anemia, presents a challenge. New technologies will soon enable us to correct some of these diseases by gene therapy. Our unit in the heart of the scientific powerhouse of the National Institutes of Health could not be better placed for this purpose."

"Secondly, bone marrow transplantation, which is the only means of cure for some leukemias, often results in graft-versus-host disease, even in carefully matched donor-recipient pairs. We will use new approaches to alter the donated marrow so that it does not attack the patient's healthy tissues and has an even stronger ability to fight the patient's disease."

Under a just-approved protocol, the first transplant has been scheduled for Sept. 13. The patient, a man in his forties with chronic myelogenous leukemia, will receive transplanted marrow from which T-lymphocytes have been removed. He will subsequently receive transfusions of donor lymphocytes which, it is hypothesized, will provide a graft-versus-leukemia effect while minimizing the risk of graft-versus-host disease.

The 4-bed bone marrow transplantation unit, along with a 12-bed hematology unit and support services, occupies 12,350 square feet.



NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant (r) praises Rep. C.W. Bill Young (R-Fla.) for his support for NHLBI's new bone marrow transplantation unit in the Clinical Center.

Among the many special features designed to protect the highly vulnerable bone marrow transplant patients from infection are a separate highly filtered, softened water system circulating through UV lights for sterilization. The unit also contains two air handling units with high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters—one to serve as a backup system and a second in each patient room.

At the ceremony, Lenfant thanked the many devoted individuals who contributed to the creation of the new facility. He singled out Rep. C.W. Bill Young (R-Fla.) for special praise, attributing to him the success of the National Marrow Donor Program and the "blossoming of bone marrow transplantation in this country. Nothing would have happened,

including the creation of this unit, without Congressman Young's strong interest in and support for bone marrow transplantation," Lenfant said.

Young participated in the ribbon-cutting, along with Dr. Edward Korn, director of NHLBI's Division of Intramural Research; Dr. Saul W. Rosen, acting CC director; and Lenfant.

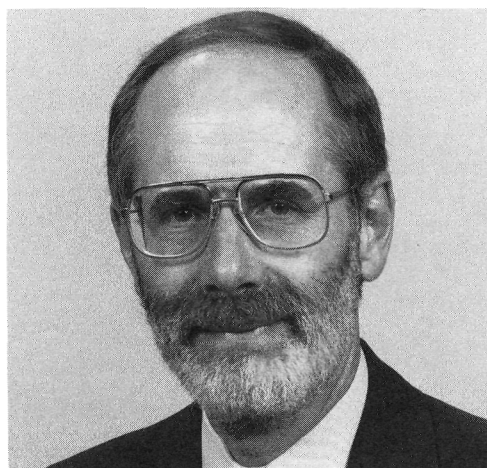
Other contributors cited were Dr. Neal Young, chief of NHLBI's Clinical Hematology Branch, and Hillel Soclof, senior administrative officer for NHLBI's Division of Intramural Research, who served as overall project coordinator and who was presented a special plaque in recognition of his efforts. □

## Marcus Fuhrer Heads NICHD's Center for Rehabilitation Research

Dr. Marcus J. Fuhrer has been selected as the first director of the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research at NICHD.

He is known internationally for his work in medical rehabilitation research, particularly in the areas of rehabilitation outcomes and the lifelong adjustment to spinal cord injury. His major research interests include rehabilitation outcomes research; determinants of the subjective well-being of persons with disabilities, and defining and measuring "independence" for persons with chronic physical impairments. He is also interested in the functional organization and plasticity of somatic and autonomic reflexes following spinal cord injury. He is a former grantee of the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research, NIMH, NINDS, and the National Science Foundation.

Fuhrer comes to NIH from Baylor College of Medicine, where he had been a professor in the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation, department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences since 1973. He had been affiliated with Baylor since 1963 and had been vice



Dr. Marcus Fuhrer

president for research at the Institute for Rehabilitation and Research in Houston since 1968.

He also has served as consultant to several federal agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, FDA, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation

Research, the National Council on the Disabled, and NIMH.

A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Fuhrer received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Illinois, completed an internship in clinical psychology at the VA Hospital in Palo Alto, Calif., and held a postdoctoral research fellowship at the Cardiovascular Research Institute, University of California Medical Center in San Francisco.

As director of the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research, he will direct and coordinate a \$10 million national program of training and research support designed to improve the functional capabilities of individuals with impairment due to injury, disease, disorder or birth defect.

The center was established by legislation in November 1990 and has operated since that time under the leadership of an acting director, Dr. Duane Alexander, director of NICHD. Since its establishment, the center has initiated a research training support program to augment the number of researchers working in the field of medical rehabilitation. This past fall, the center awarded its first research grants. □



## SKIN DISEASES

(Continued from Page 1)

said Dr. Lawrence E. Shulman, NIAMS director. "This workshop represents a new effort to review and consider population studies that will determine who gets which skin disorders and what the risk factors are, and define other important variables."

The group identified specific problems concerning epidemiologic studies of skin disease.

For instance, the prevalence of skin diseases based on case studies is difficult to assess because only a select population makes it to the dermatologist. Many people with a skin disease will first consult a pharmacist, then a nurse or primary care physician. Finally, if the condition is persistent, a dermatologist will be consulted.

"Therefore, the specialist sees patients with chronic, treatment-resistant skin diseases," said Dr. Zena Stein of New York State Psychiatric Institute. Financial constraints and referral procedures may also bar some of the population from a dermatology consult, she said. As a result, some epidemiologic studies do not account for important populations with skin diseases. This impairs data collection and skews results.

Many of the presenters at the workshop cited a dearth of epidemiologic research on skin diseases.

"Most epidemiologists work on more common and serious diseases that have captured the public interest," said Dr. Gary Friedman of Kaiser Permanente in California. The relatively low mortality rate of most skin diseases is partly responsible for lack of epidemiologic interest in



*Participants in the workshop on the epidemiology of skin diseases convened at NIH to review the status of epidemiologic research on skin diseases and to identify areas for further research.*

greatly from the electrocardiogram and other techniques," said Friedman.

As an example, Dr. Jean-Claude Roujeau of Universitaire Henri Mondor in France described the difficulty in diagnosing toxic epidermal necrolysis, a rare skin disease. It is difficult to distinguish from other skin diseases, such as bullous erythema multiforme and Stevens-Johnson syndrome.

Dr. Kayvon Safavi of St. Luke's Medical Center in Milwaukee cited the first National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES-I) as another example of lack of diagnostic uniformity.

The NHANES-I was a broad survey of 20,000 Americans carried out in the early 1970's by the National Center for Health Statistics. The survey employed more than 100 dermatologists as examiners, many of whom were still in training. Moreover, uniform diagnostic criteria for specific skin diseases were not available. Examiners at various sites ranged

of the diseases studied," said Friedman.

Genetic studies might help in understanding certain diseases, such as nonmelanoma skin cancers, psoriasis, and some forms of ichthyosis. To determine the relationship between sun exposure and basal and squamous cell carcinomas, Dr. Paul Strickland of Johns Hopkins University has been studying watermen of the Chesapeake Bay.

Generally, the prevalence of nonmelanoma skin cancers among watermen increased as both the time and intensity of sun exposure increased. A subset of watermen developed an unusually high number of lesions (5 or more); yet no data suggesting a predisposition to nonmelanoma cancer were found. Strickland suggested that DNA repair studies, which attempt to locate a defect in the mechanism that repairs sun damage, might shed light on this enigma.

Knowledge of psoriasis, too, might benefit from genetic studies. Studies of identical twins indicate that, if one twin has psoriasis, the second twin will not necessarily be afflicted. "It's predicted then that at least one-third of all patients who are genetically equipped to have psoriasis never develop the disease," said Krueger of the University of Utah Hospital. Dr. J.T. Elder of the University of Michigan is pursuing genetic linkage analysis studies on psoriasis in attempt to unravel this mystery.

Dr. Sherri Bale of the genetic studies section at NIAMS is performing genetic linkage studies to locate the gene for another puzzling skin disorder, epidermolytic hyperkeratosis, a form of ichthyosis. She encouraged epidemiologists to engage in genetic epidemiology to answer questions regarding diseases that seem to cluster in families. "Epidemiologists must modify their standard methods and use other specialized statistical-genetic tools in carrying out these studies," she said. □

## Rogers Family Expresses Thanks

The family of George Rogers, Bldg. 31's blind stand manager who died recently, wishes to thank everyone for the many cards and foods received and also for the donations made to the Children's Inn in his memory. □

***"Nonmelanoma skin cancers are viewed as orphan diseases, though these cancers affect approximately half a million Americans each year."***

this area. "Nonmelanoma skin cancers are viewed as orphan diseases, though these cancers affect approximately half a million Americans each year," said Dr. Robert Stern of Harvard Medical School.

In California, Koo is attempting to measure psychological ways in which psoriasis impairs quality of life among those who have it. Researchers believe that skin diseases should receive the attention that reflects their economic and psychosocial burden.

Another problem encountered in epidemiologic studies of skin diseases is lack of uniformity in diagnostic (classification) criteria. A common myth that prevails among the scientific community is that skin diseases are easier to identify than other diseases because they are readily visible. However, many skin diseases are similar in appearance. Thus, distinguishing one skin disease from another is not as simple as it may seem.

"Dermatology does not have specific tests for many conditions, in contrast to, say, coronary heart disease, the studies of which benefit

from finding 90 percent to zero percent of the subjects surveyed as having a skin disease.

Another problem identified by the participants was that similar studies sometimes report contradictory findings. For instance, results from studies on chronic ulcers range from finding that all patients with chronic ulcers heal to finding that few or no patients heal, said Dr. Vincent Falanga of the University of Miami. Similarly, Dr. Gerald Krueger of the University of Utah pointed out discrepancies in data on psoriasis prevalence.

Throughout the workshop, recommendations were made for future research directions. One suggestion was that dermatologists be a source of epidemiologic information. Dermatologists need to know how to develop formal epidemiologic studies, and there is a need for more collaborative efforts between epidemiologists and dermatologists.

"Dermatologists participating in these efforts should become familiar with epidemiologic methods just as epidemiologists should become familiar with the biological and clinical aspects

## VARMUS

(Continued from Page 1)

tumors in mice. His research activities are currently supported by grants from NIH, including an Outstanding Investigator Grant from NCI, an NIAID grant for AIDS drug discovery, and an NIGMS grant for studies of structural biology in AIDS; by his professorship from the American Cancer Society; and by the Melanie Bronfman Award for Breast Cancer.

Varmus is chairman of the board on biology for the National Research Council, an advisor to the Congressional Caucus for Biomedical Research, a member of the joint steering committee for public policy of biomedical societies, and cochairman of the New Delegation for Biomedical Research, a coalition of leaders in the biomedical community. He directed "Winding Your Way Through DNA," a popular public symposium on recombinant DNA staged by UCSF last fall.

The author or editor of four books and nearly 300 scientific papers, Varmus has been elected to the Institute of Medicine, the National Academy of Sciences, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His most recent book, *Genes and the Biology of Cancer*, intended for a general audience, was coauthored with Robert Weinberg for the Scientific American Library. He is an editor of several professional journals, and has served on a variety of review and advisory boards for government, biotechnology firms, and pharmaceutical companies.

Most recently, he was a member of the IOM committee that advised the Department of Defense on the use of \$210 million allocated by Congress last year for breast cancer research. In 1986, he chaired the subcommittee of the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses that gave the AIDS virus its name HIV.

Varmus was born Dec. 18, 1939, in Oceanside, N.Y., and attended public schools in Freeport, Long Island, N.Y.; his father Frank practiced family medicine, and his mother Beatrice was a psychiatric social worker. He is a

graduate of Amherst College (B.A. 1961), where he majored in English literature and edited the school newspaper; Harvard University (M.A. in English literature, 1962); and Columbia University (M.D. 1966). While in medical school, he worked for 3 months at a mission hospital in northern India.

After an internship and residency in internal medicine at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in New York, he served as a clinical associate for 2 years (1968-1970) at the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, where he did his first scientific work in the area of bacterial genetics with Dr. Ira Pastan, who is now chief of NCI's Laboratory of Molecular Biology.

Varmus came to UCSF as a postdoctoral fellow in Bishop's laboratory in 1970, initiating a longstanding collaboration to study tumor viruses, and was appointed to the faculty later that year. He became a full professor in 1979 and an American Cancer Society research professor in 1984.

Varmus, who is expected to arrive at NIH around Sept. 1, is married to Constance Casey, a book critic with the *Washington Post*. They have two sons—Jacob, who studies music and poetry at the University of Iowa, and Christopher, who attends high school. His sister, Ellen Bloch, is a genetics counselor at Oakland Children's Hospital. □

## FIC Hosts 3-Day Amebae Conference

An international conference on "Host-Parasite Relationships in Amebiasis," sponsored by the Fogarty International Center, will be held in the Lister Hill Auditorium Sept. 8-10. Scientists from 11 countries will discuss recent advances in research on pathogenic and nonpathogenic amebae, basic *Entamoeba* biology, ecology of the intestine, human immune response to *Entamoeba* infection, antigens and virulence factors, and progress in *Entamoeba histolytica* vaccine development. For more information, call Sheila Feldman, 64161. □

## NIDCD Advisory Council Gains Four New Members

Four new members were recently appointed to the National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Advisory Council—Dr. Thomas J. Hixon, Dr. Adela de la Torre, Dr. Robert Mathog and Louise Fletcher.

Hixon is a professor in the department of speech and hearing sciences and director of the Institute for Neurogenic Communication Disorders at the University of Arizona in Tucson, one of the National Multipurpose Research and Training Centers supported by NIDCD.

De la Torre, an economist, is an associate professor in the health care administration program at California State University in Long Beach.

Mathog is professor and chairman of the department of otolaryngology at Wayne State University in Detroit.



New members of the NIDCD advisory council join institute director Dr. James B. Snow, Jr. (second from l). They are (from l) Dr. Thomas J. Hixon, Dr. Adela de la Torre and Dr. Robert Mathog. Not shown is actress Louise Fletcher.

Fletcher, a professional actress, has appeared in plays and movies. Her father was a missionary in a hearing-impaired community and her mother is hearing-impaired and was a teacher of hearing-impaired students.

## NIDDK's R. Daniel Camerini-Otero Awarded 1993 Aurbach Lectureship

Dr. R. Daniel Camerini-Otero has been awarded the 1993 Gerald D. Aurbach Lectureship by the Endocrine Society in recognition of his outstanding contributions to basic research.

He was presented with the award at the society's 75th annual meeting, held in Las Vegas. Afterward, he delivered the honorary lecture titled "Homologous Recombination, Recombination Proteins, and DNA Triplexes."

Camerini-Otero, chief of NIDDK's Genetics and Biochemistry Branch, is recognized internationally for his pioneering and innovative research on the mechanisms of DNA recombination, work that is expected to facilitate gene therapy and revolutionize the treatment of human diseases.

Several years ago, he and his coworkers began to explore the previously obscure field of the biochemistry of homologous recombination in mammalian cells. This effort resulted in the discovery of a protein involved in human DNA recombination.

More recently, the researchers gained further insight into the process of DNA recombination when they discovered that the recombinase protein was involved in the formation of a triple-stranded DNA intermediate.

This so-called triplex DNA represents a promising tool for the development of "molecular scissors" to cleave genes in a precise manner, a boon for genome-mappers. Other research suggests that triplex-DNA may block transcription at defective gene sites, which may offer a new strategy for combating viruses such as HIV, which causes AIDS.

As both a clinical geneticist and molecular biologist, Camerini-Otero is broadly trained in several disciplines. He received his bachelor's degree in 1966 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He completed a joint M.D.-Ph.D. program in 1973 at New York University School of Medicine. The following year he served as a resident in pediatrics at Bellevue Hospital in New York City.

Camerini-Otero came to NIH in 1974 as a research associate in the physical chemistry section of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology. He served as senior investigator in the human biochemical genetics section of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Branch from 1979 to 1982.

In 1982, he was promoted to chief of the molecular genetics section in the Genetics and Biochemistry Branch, becoming branch chief 2 years later.

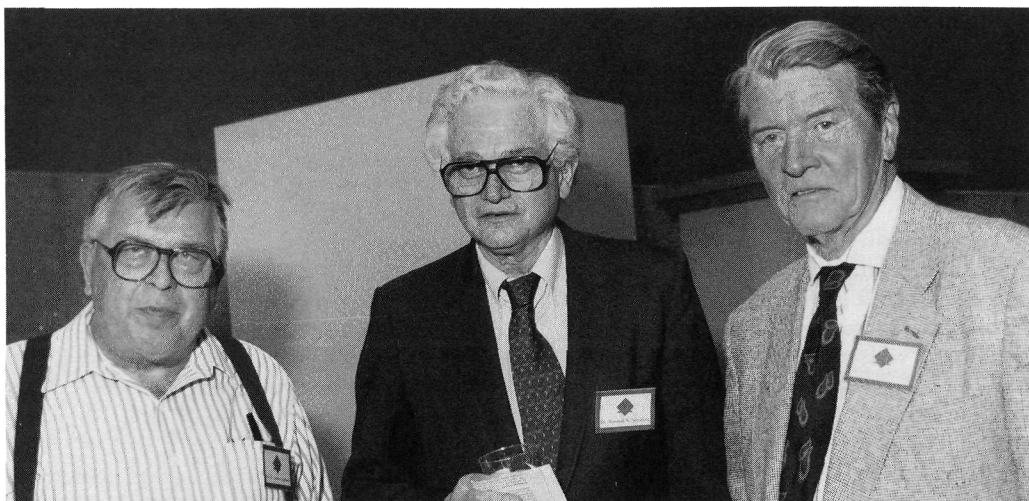
Camerini-Otero is the first recipient of the Aurbach Lectureship Award, named in honor of the late Gerald D. Aurbach, a distinguished endocrinologist and longtime chief of NIDDK's Metabolic Diseases Branch.

In addition to their friendship and careers as intramural scientists, Camerini-Otero and Aurbach shared a mutual interest in genetic diseases and a talent for scientific innovation. □

## Clinical Center's 40th Highlighted by Alumni, Nobelists



*Cutting the Clinical Center's birthday cake during 40th anniversary celebrations last month were Dr. Saul Rosen (l), CC acting director, and Dr. Roy Hertz. Hertz, NICHD scientist emeritus, admitted the first patient to the CC on July 6, 1953. "There were more doctors than patients when the Clinical Center started out," he says.*

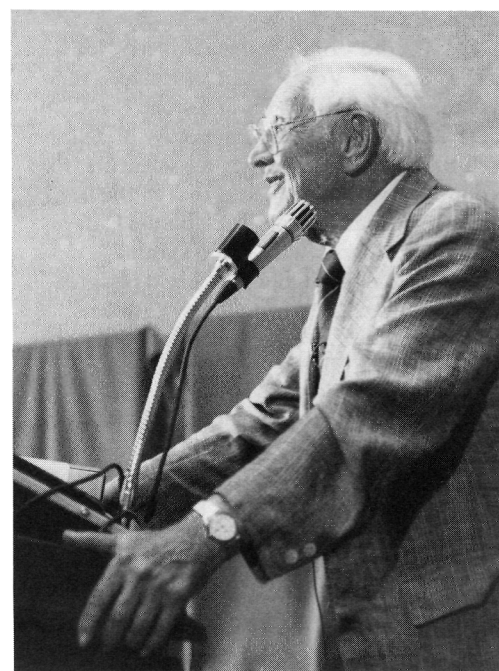


*Among special guests during the anniversary celebrations last month were Nobel Prize recipients (from l) Dr. D. Carleton Gajdusek, Dr. Marshall Nirenberg, and Dr. Christian B. Anfinsen. A series of programs marking the 40th anniversary focused on NIH intramural clinical research.*



*Dr. Henry Masur, chief of the Clinical Center's critical care medicine department, unveils the portrait of his father. Dr. Jack Masur served as CC director from 1948 to 1951, and from 1956 until his death in 1969. Portraits of all the CC directors, painted by Al Laoang of NCRR, were unveiled during the anniversary and now hang in Lipsett Amphitheater.*

Photos: Bill Branson



*Nobelist Dr. Julius Axelrod talks about his work to those attending a reception commemorating the anniversary. He describes his years at NIH as "the right place for me. They told me, 'Julie, [you] can do anything you please, as long as it's important and original.'"*

### NIGMS Grantees Capecchi, Smithies Honored

Dr. Mario Capecchi, a professor of human genetics and biology at the University of Utah School of Medicine in Salt Lake City, and Dr. Oliver Smithies, the Excellence professor of pathology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, are among the recipients of the Gairdner Foundation International Award. Capecchi and Smithies are being recognized for their research on gene targeting, particularly their development of a method to "knock out" specific genes. They will each receive a \$30,000 prize at a ceremony at the University of Toronto in October.

Since the Gairdner Foundation began giving awards in 1957, 40 of the 230 recipients have subsequently won a Nobel Prize.

Capecchi earned a Ph.D. in biophysics from Harvard University and Smithies earned a D.Phil. in biochemistry from Oxford University in England.

### NCI Holds Workshop on Cancer Cells

A 2-day workshop will be held on "Xenogenization of the Cancer Cells: From Basics to the Clinic" on Sept. 13-14 at the NCI Frederick Cancer Research and Development Center. The workshop is being sponsored by NCI's Biological Response Modifiers Program in cooperation with Dr. Jacob Hockman, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. For more information call Margaret Fanning, (301) 846-5865 or fax (301) 846-5866. □



## French Scientist Guy de Thé Marks 30 Years with NIH

By Jim Bryant

Dr. Guy de Thé, research director of France's National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and professor at the Pasteur Institute, recently celebrated 30 years of what has been a mutually fruitful scientific collaboration with NIH.

A recent Fogarty scholar-in-residence, he arrived at NIH in April 1963 to work with Dr. Dick Rauscher in NCI's Laboratory of Viral Oncology. The young de Thé had spent the preceding 2 years at Duke University, working with Dr. J.W. Beard on viral oncology. For the next 3 years following his arrival at NIH, he worked on electron microscopy of oncogenic retroviruses in NCI.

He was working in the Molecular Virology Laboratory in the Clinical Center in 1965 when Dr. Robert Gallo joined the NCI staff. There began a lifelong friendship and fruitful scientific collaboration.

"He was this bright young clinician," de Thé said of Gallo. "Very American and also very Italian. We got along immediately."

De Thé called Gallo's Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology "a melting pot for scientists from around the world," and said that in the last 10 years two scientists from his laboratory have come here to work with Gallo's team.

Despite Gallo's highly publicized disagreement with Dr. Luc Montagnier, another Pasteur scientist, over who first identified the AIDS virus, de Thé never let the dispute interfere with his friendship and collaboration with Gallo. "That doesn't affect our friendship at all," de Thé commented. "We should leave the disagreements to the lawyers, and we scientists should continue to work together."

Following his first 2-year joint venture with NIH, de Thé returned to CNRS's Cancer Research Institute, where he was asked to implement a program on the role of viruses in human tumors at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), newly created by the World Health Organization, in Lyon. Within 3 years, he had developed an African and Southeast Asian network of field and laboratory studies on Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) and its associated malignancies, Burkitt's lymphoma and nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC).

Two world-renowned projects were conceived and carried out by de Thé between 1970 and 1979: The first was the Ugandan Burkitt's Lymphoma Prospective Study, involving 42,000 children from newborns to 5 years old, bled once and followed for 8 years. The results showed that in certain parts of Equatorial Africa, infection very early in life by EBV was etiologically related to the B-cell lymphoma developing in children 5 to 9 years later.

Supported financially by NCI's Virus Cancer Program, the study was carried out with great difficulty as Uganda was then ruled by Idi



*Recalling their longtime collaboration, which has covered many nations in the developing world, are (from l) Dr. Robert Gallo of NCI, Dr. Guy de Thé of the Pasteur Institute and Fogarty scholar-in-residence, and Dr. William Blattner of NCI.*

Amin Dada. It was highly significant, however, because it provided the first epidemiological evidence of a virus being causally involved in the development of a human tumor.

In the other prominent venture, de Thé and his IARC team developed an extensive network of field and laboratory studies on NPC—also supported by NCI through serological, clinical and molecular studies in Hong Kong, Tunisia and France—and demonstrated a close association between EBV and this carcinoma.

When he rejoined CNRS as research director at Lyon University in 1979, de Thé pursued his studies on NPC in North Africa and China. He and Prof. Zeng Yi showed the usefulness for NPC control of detecting IgA antibodies to certain antigens for early detection of the tumor and in determining precancerous conditions in asymptomatic individuals.

De Thé's basic work on nasopharyngeal carcinoma prompted the Chinese to use a single antibody blood test to detect this cancer at a very early stage and then treat it successfully with radiotherapy.

"As a result of our work, victims of this disease went from an 80 percent fatality rate to a 70 percent cure rate!" he explains proudly. He attributes the turnaround in part to the Chinese approach to medicine, which stresses prevention above all.

In recent years, he has explored the role of environmental cofactors which, with the ubiquitous EBV, may play an etiological role in NPC. He called on an anthropologist, A. Hubert, to study the lifestyles of specific populations at risk for the disease—namely, the Cantonese Chinese, the Maghrebians Arabs, and the Greenland Eskimos.

These studies showed that preserved foods frequently consumed by the three populations could contain chemical carcinogens that activate EBV latency. This led de Thé to join Dr. Helmut Bartsch of IARC to study chemical-viral cocarcinogenesis. This partnership paid off, as food extracts from all three areas

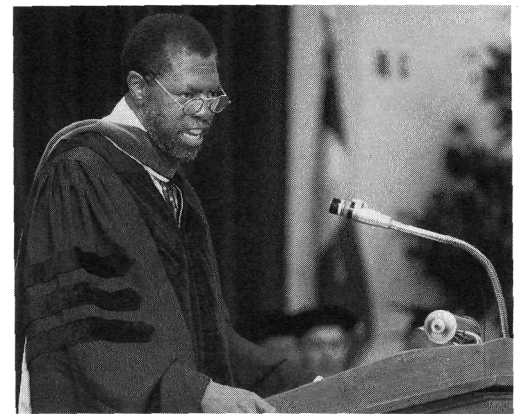
were shown to contain chemical carcinogens, genotoxins and factors activating critical EBV genes, controlling latency and EBV replication.

Since 1983, de Thé has been engaged in a new venture—studying the relationship between HTLV-1 and neurological diseases. In 1985, while studying the epidemiology and pathogenesis of HTLV-1 infection in the French West Indies, he observed an association between HTLV-1 and an endemic neuromyelopathy, tropical spastic paraparesis. This important discovery brought about a strong revival in neurovirology, especially in research on multiple sclerosis.

De Thé received a second NCI contract, to work on retroviruses in Africa, when he was a visiting professor at the Harvard School of Public Health between 1986 and 1989.

De Thé was nominated in 1990 to be a Fogarty scholar-in-residence by Gallo and Dr. William Blattner, chief of NCI's viral epidemiology section. Although de Thé was unable to come to NIH until last year, he now spends 3 to 4 months a year here during his 12-month-long scholarship.

"I'm very busy running my lab at Pasteur," he explains, "but I spend a lot of time in between my scholarship terms preparing for the time when I will be back at NIH. I'm deeply grateful to NIH. For 30 years I have had such good relationships with so many people here. I feel that I'm part of the family." □



*Dr. Kenneth Olden, NIEHS director, recently delivered the commencement address to 39 Ph.D. and master's degree recipients, their faculty and guests at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio. In his speech, he told the biomedical science and pharmacy education graduates that new opportunities presented by modern biology place a responsibility on new graduates to assure that good science is used as a basis for good decisions in environmental regulations and in public and individual health decisions. "As health professionals, we must educate the general public, the clinical community and elected representatives in issues of environmental health as a basis for responsible decisions," he said.*

## Same Job, Same Office for 19 Years

### Carl Fretts Retires as Director of NIH's Contracts, Grants Division

By Anne Barber

Carl Fretts, director of OD's Division of Contracts and Grants, has been in the same job and in the same office for 19 years. "This is probably some kind of a record," he says. "Once they got me in, they couldn't get me out."

Fretts, who retired recently with 35 years of government service, came to NIH in 1965. He worked first for Dr. Gordon Zubrod, NCI's scientific director for chemotherapy, as special assistant for business administration. It was while working in NCI that he met Dr. Jesse Steinfeld, who later became surgeon general. At Steinfeld's invitation, Fretts served as executive officer for the Public Health Service from 1970 to 1972. From PHS he moved over to the National Science Foundation (NSF), where he started a contract and business management office.

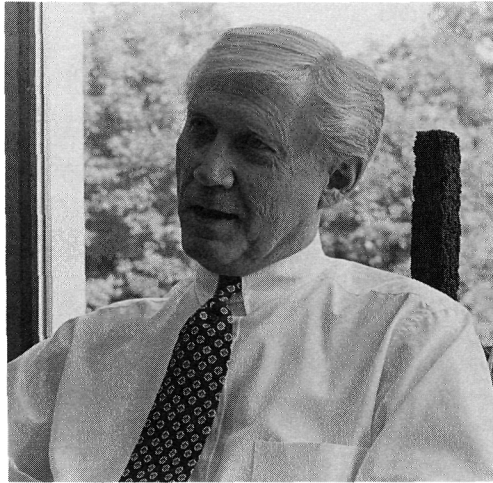
He was at NSF less than a year when former President Nixon launched a "war on cancer" with increased funding. "I wanted to come back to cancer and be involved with all the exciting new activity," said Fretts. "I was very fortunate to be able to come back as chief of the Research Contracts Branch." He headed the branch until August 1974, when he took over his position as director, Division of Contracts and Grants.

Even this job was fairly new when he took over 19 years ago. The office had been operational for 2 years with one director—Alex Smallberg. "I replaced him and found a home."

"Contracting here at NIH is highly decentralized," he explains. "Many ICDs have their own contract personnel. My office provides policy, procedures and oversight operations for all ICD offices and the Division of Procurement."

One of the first things Fretts did when he took over the contracts office was to establish a contract management advisory committee. He considers this group to be the "board of directors." Continuing, he says, "You don't develop procedures in a vacuum. The people involved need to have input. This is the key to success in any operation. Before a decision is made, the people who have to implement it should have full opportunity to review and make sure the decision fits the work. You need to know what the effect will be on the people in the front lines before you cast in concrete, not afterwards. This approach is not unique to our division. NIH overall does a good job in this area. It is one of NIH's strengths—make sure the implementers have input at an early stage."

Even though Fretts was at NIH more than 25 years, he says, "I've been very fortunate to have had only four bosses during all those years—Zubrod; and three associate directors for administration—Leon Schwartz, Cal Baldwin and Jack Mahoney. From my point of view,"



Carl Fretts

he says, "it has been a superb working relationship. I have the highest regard and respect for all of them."

Fretts said that even though he was an administrator and not a scientist, he nonetheless felt he was helping the scientists meet their goals and NIH accomplish its mission.

"I have always been proud to say I work for NIH because of its important mission, high caliber of people, and college campus atmosphere."

Prior to joining NIH in 1965, Fretts had worked for Ford Motor Co., RCA, NASA and the Smithsonian Institution. "I've had a fairly good number of jobs," he says. "I left NIH for a couple of years in 1970 and '71 and missed it so much I came back."

"My experience here at NIH has been all positive. I couldn't have worked in a better place. I thoroughly enjoyed the work and the people I work with. You can label me a satisfied employee of the NIH."

Continuing with praise, Fretts said, "I certainly want to express thanks to our secretaries—Betty Hopkins and Dorrie Gottlieb. They wind me up every morning and point me in the right direction and take care of this office so

beautifully. They really are indispensable, responsible, hard-working employees and real friends."

Hopkins, the secretary who has been with him the longest (14 years), had this to say about Fretts: "He is the best boss I have ever had. He is organized, meets deadlines, and is not a last-minute person. It certainly makes my job a lot easier."

A recipient of many awards, including the DHHS Departmental Management Award in 1987 and the NIH Director's Award in 1971, Fretts most prizes the special award he received for his work in equal employment opportunity.

Fretts lives in Arlington, Va., in a house directly across the street from the house in which his wife was raised. In fact, his oldest son was delivered on the same day of the month, by the same doctor, who had delivered his wife 25 years earlier. That son is now a technical director for a theatre company in Virginia. He also has a daughter and another son. The daughter works for the Franklin Science Museum in Philadelphia and his youngest son is a writer for *Entertainment Weekly* magazine in New York.

Fretts plans to stay in the Washington area because it has a lot to offer and is relatively close to all his children. "Just a hop, skip, and jump to visit any of them," he says.

About retirement: "I don't want to completely leave the contracting field. I would like to keep my hand in it for awhile and do some consulting. But for now, I am going to do some traveling before settling down to work. One of the things I will not miss is getting up at 5:15 a.m. on Wednesdays to make the extramural program's management executive committee meeting held early every Wednesday morning."

A certified public accountant with a specialty in contracts, Fretts received his B.S. in accounting from the University of Maryland in 1958 after having to take 2 years out of his study to serve in the armed forces as a tank commander during the Korean War. □



The ADP/EP coordination committee presented awards to members of the NIH ADP community for outstanding service recently. Pictured below with Dr. Doris Wallace (second from l); ADP chairperson, are (from l) Dr. John James, DRG; Leslie Barden, DCRT; Michelle Ugas, DCRT; Anne Robertson, NIDDK; Katherine Landre, DRG; Jim Cain, DRG; Margaret Costello, DRG; and Dr. Robert Goldschmidt, DRG. Not present are Jim Lowrie and Sherry Zucker from DRG.

## The NIH Life Sciences Education Connection

The National Institute of Mental Health will conduct a 1-day seminar for K-12 science teachers on Sept. 30 to increase understanding of the biological basis of behavior and mental illness. "A Mind of its Own" is designed to provide educators with an understanding of the brain and behavior by exploring the unique contribution of NIMH basic and clinical research programs. Misunderstood, often feared, and still stigmatized, mental disorders affect 22 percent of the population in any given year. Scientists from NIMH will discuss schizophrenia, depression, affective disorders, neuro-AIDS, memory, and stress and the immune system.

The seminar will be held in Masur Auditorium in the Clinical Center. Registration is

required. Contact NIMH's Science Education Program, 31639, to register or for more information.

As the beginning of the new school year draws closer, the Office of Science Education Policy would like to update its list of institutes, centers and divisions that have established partnerships with local schools. These partnerships or, "Adopt-a-School" programs, allow an organization to enter into a formal agreement with a school to provide various types of support. There are about one dozen schools that have been "adopted" by various ICDs. Contact OSEP, 22469, if you have recently adopted a school or if you are interested in finding out the role that your ICD can play in strengthening our nation's schools.



## Six New Members Named to NIEHS Council

Six new appointments have been made to the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council.

Norma Barfield from Ann Arbor, Mich., is an attorney who also has a degree in government. She has a strong record of service, especially in community groups related to women and minority issues.

Joan Bernstein is vice president of environmental policy and ethical standards of Waste Management, Inc., Oak Brook, Ill. As the company's chief environmental officer, she directs the development of Waste Management's strategy as it relates to environmental issues and counsels the company's operating groups on environmental and ethical programs.

Dr. Doyle Graham is professor of pathology at Duke University School of Medicine, where he also directs the integrated toxicology program and is dean of medical education.

Dr. Lovell Jones is associate professor and director of the department of gynecologic oncology at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He has participated in NIH/NIEHS programs in science and minority activities.

Dr. George Provenzano is research assistant professor of health economics in the department of epidemiology and preventive medicine at the University of Maryland at Baltimore. He specializes in economic evaluation of alternative programs and policies in health care delivery, health promotion and disease prevention.

Dr. Thomas Norris is executive associate dean for academic affairs and research at the University of North Dakota, where he is responsible for academic affairs, curriculum development, graduate and clinical programs and administration.



Shown above are new council members (front, from l) Dr. George Provenzano, Norma Barfield, NIEHS director Dr. Kenneth Olden, Joan Bernstein. At rear are (from l) Drs. Doyle Graham, Lovell Jones, Thomas Norris.

## Happy with NIH Travel Services?

Travel management services for NIH employees and patients are currently provided through a contract with Ober United Travel Agency. Although the contract does not expire until Oct. 31, 1994, the reprourement process has begun. NIH has been asked to submit a list of contract requirements to the General Services Administration so that the solicitation can be prepared and published in the *Commerce Business Daily*.

You now have an opportunity to assist in this effort. Do you have suggestions or ideas on ways to improve or enhance NIH's travel services? What could or should be done to improve the day-to-day operation (reservation/ticketing process) of the on-site travel agency? What additional services would you like to see provided; services that could have the potential to benefit all NIH travelers? What can be done to ensure high quality service from the travel agency?

If the current travel services do not fulfill all of your needs, now is the time to try and effect a change. Your input to this process is valuable. Send your suggestions to Anne Marie Gillen, the NIH project officer, Bldg. 31, Rm. 3C39, by Sept. 30. □

## Two New Members Join NIGMS Advisory Council

Two new members have been named to the National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council for 4-year terms. They are Dr. Elvera Ehrenfeld of the University of California, Irvine; and Dr. Henry Lewis III of Texas Southern University, Houston. In addition, the Department of Veterans Affairs has appointed as its *ex officio* member to the council Dr. Martin Albert of Boston University School of Medicine.

Ehrenfeld is a professor of molecular biology and biochemistry and dean of the school of biological sciences at UC-Irvine.

Lewis is dean and professor of pharmacy practice at Texas Southern. He is also director of the Florida Endowment Fund for Higher Education Program.

Albert is a professor of neurology at BU School of Medicine and director of the division of behavioral neuroscience at Boston Veterans Administration Medical Center. □

## Library Studies User Needs

The NIH Library in Bldg. 10 is conducting a qualitative research study as part of its effort to assess user information needs, and the library's ability to respond to those needs.

Focus groups with library users and nonusers will be held on campus in late August and early September. Representatives from LaScola Qualitative Research will be calling selected NIH employees to invite them to participate. □





## TRAINING TIPS

The NIH Training Center, Division of Personnel Management, offers the following hands-on courses:

<i>Personal Computing Training</i>	66211
<i>Course Titles</i>	<i>Starting Dates</i>
Welcome to Macintosh	8/26, 9/9
Adv. Macintosh Techniques	9/13
Intro to Microsoft Word 5.0	8/25
Lotus for Mac-Levels 1 & 2	Upon Request
FoxBASE 2.01-Levels 1 & 2	Upon Request
QuarkXpress-Level 2	8/30
MORE III	Upon Request
3Com PC Network-Level 1	9/1
3Com PC Network Management	Upon Request
Intro to Personal Computing for New Users	9/14
Intro to DOS	8/30, 9/10
Intro to Windows 3.1	9/8
WordPerfect for Windows	8/23
Lotus for Windows	8/24
Excel for Windows	9/1
Project for Windows	9/13
Intro to WordPerfect 5.1	8/31
WordPerfect 5.1-Adv. Topics	9/7
Desktop Publishing w/WP 5.1	8/27
Intro to Harvard Graphics, Rel. 3.0	8/30
Intermed. Harvard Graphics, Rel. 3.0	9/10
Intro to Paradox	9/1
Adv. Paradox	8/27, 9/8
Adv. dBASE IV	9/20
Intro to dBASE III+	Upon Request
Intermed. dBASE III+	Upon Request
Lotus 1-2-3, Rel. 2.4-Adv. Tops.	8/23
Intermed. Symphony	Upon Request
Adv. Symphony	Upon Request
Intro to CRISP	9/3
CRISP Thesaurus	9/3

## NHLBI's Lydia Elliott Retires

After 26 years, Lydia Elliott has left NIH. Most recently secretary to Drs. Henry Fales, chief of NHLBI's Laboratory of Biophysical Chemistry, and Warren Leonard, chief of the pulmonary and molecular immunology section, she had a diverse career at NIH.

Her first position at NIH was secretary to Sallie Keys, chief of psychiatric nursing. In 1972, she transferred to the Clinical Center as an administrative officer of the day (AOD). When that office was abolished, she joined the Clinical Associates Program. In 1985, she transferred to NHLBI.

Although she has enjoyed each of her positions, the one Elliott remembers most fondly was that of AOD. She enjoyed the interactions with patients and their families, and the rotating tours of duty. She says working the afternoon and midnight tours were her "ego" tours, because after the senior administrators and directors went home, she was the "boss." Also, working the midnight tour allowed her to be at home during the day with her two children.

Elliott says she has often wished she kept a diary of her years at NIH so she could reflect on

## NIDDK's Bernhard Witkop Retires After 42 Years

Dr. Bernhard Witkop, longtime chief of NIDDK's Laboratory of Chemistry, recently retired from NIH after a distinguished tenure of 42 years.

Among Witkop's many accomplishments were his development of the cyanogen bromide reaction, a method for cleaving proteins precisely in order to facilitate the sequencing of a protein. The technique was a key development in the current genetic engineering revolution, since protein sequencing is needed before a gene can be properly cloned. The technique is now used in the commercial manufacture of genetically engineered insulin.

Witkop and his coworkers have helped define the metabolic pathways of many biologically important molecules, including serotonin, a neurotransmitter, and its precursor tryptophan, which is important for normal growth.

Several of his NIDDK trainees have become major figures in chemistry themselves. They include Dr. John Daly, chief of the Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry, who studies the toxins of tropical frogs and their potential use as analgesics. Another is Dr. Donald Jerina, of the same laboratory, who studies the metabolism of hydrocarbons and their relation to cancer.

An ardent advocate for science, Witkop laments that the United States lags behind other countries when it comes to honoring its scientists. "In the U.S.," he says, "science seems to take a back seat to politics."

Recently, he persuaded the U.S. Postal Service to mint a stamp honoring the late Percy Lavon Julian, a chemist famous for his role in the synthesis of physostigmine, a drug used to treat glaucoma. Witkop and Julian were friends and correspondents for more than three decades.

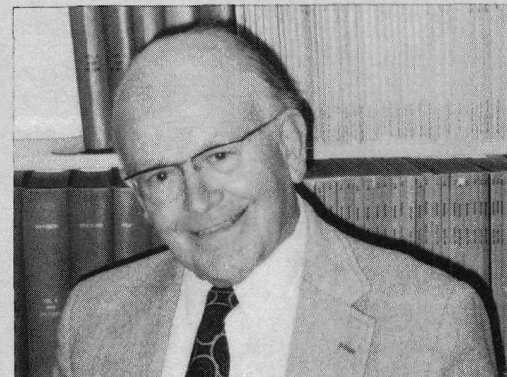
The Julian stamp, part of the Postal Service's Black Heritage Series, is not the first honor Witkop has helped bestow upon a scientist. He also helped design a German banknote honoring chemist Paul Ehrlich, who is known as the father of chemotherapy. Witkop was instrumental in getting Bldg. 1 named after Dr. James Shannon, a renowned scientist and former NIH director.

The 76-year-old scientist would also like to see a return to the basic research that brought NIH its worldwide reputation. "Let's get back to the basics, and allow room for creativ-

all of the changes that have taken place.

After spending most of her adult life here, she knows she will miss NIH and the friends she made. But since her daughter is a grants management specialist at NCI, she will at least be able to keep up with what is happening.

The first thing she plans to do when she leaves is turn off her alarm clock forever. She also hopes to do a little traveling and a lot of relaxing. □



*Dr. Bernhard Witkop*

ity," he says.

A native of Germany, Witkop is interested in creating international diversity at NIH. After helping to establish the NIH Visiting Program in 1956, he invited a Japanese researcher into his Laboratory of Chemistry, the first fellow in the new program. Since then, many Japanese scientists have become fellows in the same lab, some emerging as leaders in their field.

As a multilingual international scholar, he has conducted scientific lectures in Japanese on numerous occasions. He is believed to be the first Western scientist ever to lecture in Japan in that country's native tongue.

In 1958, he won the American Chemical Society's prestigious Hillebrand Prize for his work on biologically active molecules and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1969.

Witkop earned a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1940 and Sc.D. in 1946 from the University of Munich. From 1948 to 1950, he was an instructor at Harvard University.

After coming to NIH in 1950, he served as a Public Health Service special fellow and later as a visiting scientist. In 1956, he was named chief of the section on metabolites in the Laboratory of Chemistry of the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, later called NIDDK. Witkop, the longest reigning chief of the Laboratory of Chemistry, remained in that position until his retirement.

In recognition of his scientific accomplishments and his promotion of international scientific exchange, Witkop was recently given the honorary title of NIDDK institute scholar emeritus.—Mark Sampson



## Computer Training Classes

Classes	Dates
High Performance Computing with Math Advantage	8/20
Intermediate PC-DOS	8/23, 25
Molecular Graphics: Creating Pictures and Videos	8/23
ENTER MAIL	8/27
Designing Tables and Managing a DB2 Database	8/30-9/1

Classes are offered by the DCRT Training Program without charge. Call 62339 for more information. □

## Mail, Printing Facilities To Move to Rockville Location

The Division of Support Services, ORS, will be moving its entire operation—Mail Services Branch (MSB), Printing and Reproduction Branch (PRB)—to a new leased facility in the Rockville area.

The facility is at 301 North Stonestreet Ave. and is within 2 blocks of the Rockville Metro station. The new 50,000-square-foot facility will provide enough space to consolidate both MSB and PRB under one roof. It will also allow for improvement of services, and provide a clean, hospitable work environment for the staff, says ORS.

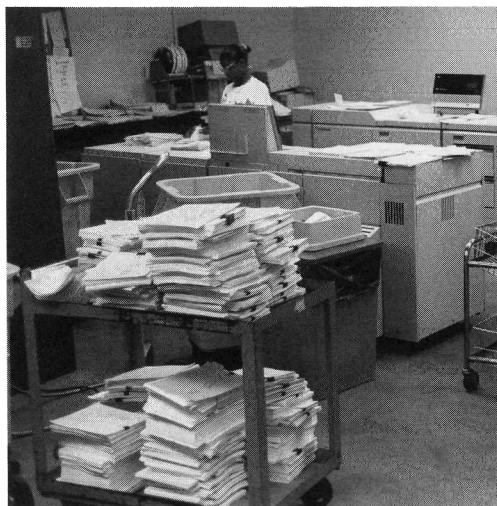
The Bldg. 31 mail facility can no longer accommodate the growing mail service requirements of the NIH community. "Bldg. 31 does not provide the space necessary to accommodate state-of-the-art equipment that is essential to keep pace with NIH mail operations," said Craig Gavin, deputy director of the division.

More than a year ago, a review conducted by



Front view of new facility in Rockville on North Stonestreet Ave.

high-tech viewing station for quality reviews. While the new facility will allow the consolidation of production capability, PRB intends to leave a contingent of personnel on campus at its present location to provide NIH customers with ready access to PRB services.



Cramped Printing and Reproduction Branch quarters in Bldg. 31

U.S. postal officials concluded that the Bldg. 31 facility contained inadequate space for efficient mail processing and that the loading/receiving bays were inadequate for safe and efficient incoming and outgoing mail deliveries.

The additional space will allow MSB to purchase a new sorting/bar coding machine that will increase sorting capacity from the current 3,500 pieces per hour to 35,000 pieces per hour, Gavin explained. Larger loading/holding areas provide easier access for delivery and pickup by Postal Service trucks. Close proximity to the U.S. Postal Service Southern Maryland Sectional Center and outlying NIH buildings will help to improve delivery time and expedite outgoing mail shipments, he added.

In addition, the new facility allows PRB to consolidate the majority of its high-volume printing operation in one location and will provide enough space to increase production capacity by adding new high-speed copiers and a



Cramped Mail Services Branch in Bldg. 31



Valeria Shropshire, an industrial hygienist in the Health and Safety Branch, NIEHS, has passed the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH) certification examination, been found qualified for professional certification in the comprehensive practice of industrial hygiene, and is entitled to use the designation "certified industrial hygienist" (CIH). At NIEHS, all industrial hygienists are now certified by the ABIH.

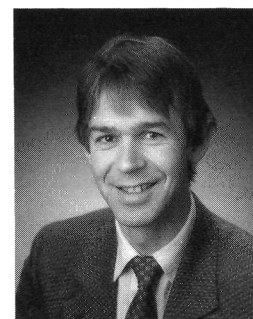
## NIDDK Scientists Share Award

Two NIDDK scientists have been named joint recipients of the 1993 Young Investigator's Award by the Protein Society for their groundbreaking work in the area of protein nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR).

The awardees, Drs. Adriaan Bax and G. Marius Clore, are chiefs of the biophysical NMR spectroscopy section and the protein NMR section, respectively, in the institute's Laboratory of Chemical Physics.

Bax and Clore, together with Dr. Angela Gronenborn, chief of the laboratory's structural

biology section, are pioneers in the development and improvement of protein NMR, which employs powerful magnets and computers to determine the three-dimensional structures of molecules and probe their dynamics. This imaging of the shape



Dr. Adriaan Bax

and motion of molecules is considered a key toward understanding their role in various disease processes and is helpful in designing drugs to combat disease itself.

The investigators' improvements in protein NMR, namely the development of three and four-dimensional techniques, have allowed scientists to visualize

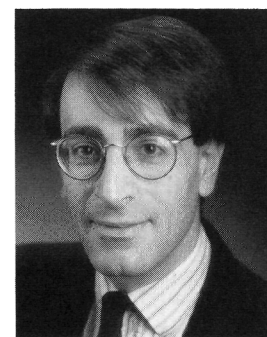
larger, more complex proteins than was previously possible using conventional two-dimensional NMR.

Bax and Clore have used protein NMR to study many biologically important molecules, including proteins associated with HIV

infection. They hope that their work will help lead to an ability to block replication of the AIDS virus.

Bax and Clore are the first researchers to receive the Young Investigator's Award jointly from the Protein Society, whose purpose is to promote research and facilitate communication on all aspects of proteins.

Sponsored by DuPont-Merck Pharmaceutical Co., the award has been given each year since 1989 to honor outstanding protein researchers under age 38. The investigators were formally honored with the prize and delivered a lecture at the society's award banquet in San Diego last month. □



Dr. G. Marius Clore